

Claims 9-22 and 26-34 have been allowed. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 23-25 have been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


In view of the amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of Applicants' currently presented claims are earnestly solicited.

Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

The undersigned may be reached at: (920) 721-2435.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure

#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Barbara D. Miller, hereby certify that on September 24, 2001, this Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Box AF, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By:   
Barbara D. Miller

Version Of Claims With Markings To Show Changes Made

1. ✓ (amended) An absorbent article, comprising:  
a backsheet layer;  
a substantially liquid permeable topsheet layer;  
an absorbent composite structure sandwiched between said backsheet and topsheet layers, said absorbent composite including an absorbent core having a first primary layer region and at least a second primary layer region;  
at least one of said first and second primary layer regions having a Liquid Wicking Value of at least about 38%; and  
at least one of said first and second primary layer regions includes a plurality of sublayers;  
wherein  
said absorbent core has a dry thickness of not more than about 6 mm, and a minimum crotch width of not more than about 10 cm.
2. (canceled)
3. (amended) An article as recited in claim 1, wherein said article is configured for use by an adult, and wherein said absorbent core has ~~a dry thickness of not more than about 6 mm, and~~ a minimum crotch width of not more than about 14 cm. *— 1/2 narrow/6 cm*
5. (canceled)
23. ✓ ~~An article as recited in claim 1, wherein~~ An absorbent article, comprising:  
a backsheet layer;  
a substantially liquid permeable topsheet layer;  
an absorbent composite structure sandwiched between said backsheet and topsheet layers, said absorbent composite including an absorbent core having a first primary layer region and at least a second primary layer region;  
at least one of said first and second primary layer regions having a Liquid Wicking Value of at least about 38%; and  
at least one of said first and second primary layer regions includes a plurality of sublayers;  
wherein

said first primary layer region includes a first superabsorbent having a first Tau value; said second primary layer region includes a second superabsorbent having a second Tau value; and said first Tau value is greater than said second Tau value.